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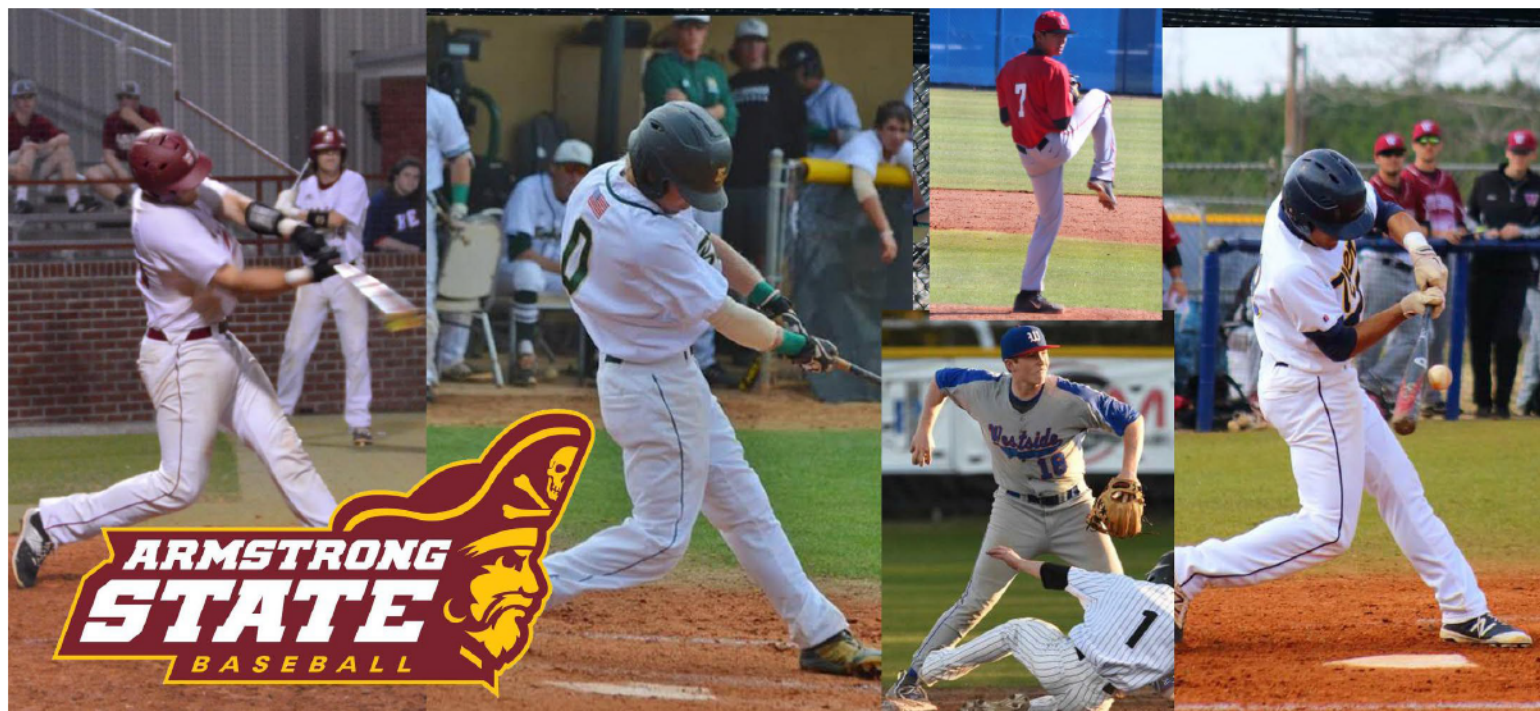


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## BASEBALL

### Armstrong State Baseball Inks Five For 2017



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**SAVANNAH, Ga.** - Armstrong State University head baseball coach Calvin Culberson has announced the signing of five players to National Letters of Intent to play for the Pirates in the Spring 2017 season.

Three junior college transfers and two high school players will join a class of eight that signed in the Fall, giving Armstrong State an overall signing class of 13 players for next season.

Joining the Pirates will be: 6-0, 180 LHP Sam Goberdahn (Adel, Ga. / Darton State College), 5-10, 170 OF Mike Warren (Macon, Ga. / Andrew College); 5-7, 145 INF Cal Young (Cochran, Ga. / East Georgia College); 6-2, 240 C Mark Felton (Valdosta, Ga. / Lowndes HS) and 6-0, 190 INF Timothy Gray (Augusta, Ga. / Westside HS).

"We are really excited to add this class to the players we signed in the Fall," Culberson said. "Our Fall players really performed well this Spring, earning several All-State and All-Conference honors, with two Region Player of the Year honors and a State Player of the Year honor."

"This Spring class is made up of players that all played in extremely successful and respected programs," Culberson said. "The head coaches of these five players do a great job preparing their players for the next level."

Goberdahn went 6-1 with a 3.67 ERA in 15 starts at Darton State College in 2016, helping the school earn a GJCAA regular season and tournament title as well as a region title, advancing to the NJCAA World Series. He gave up just 66 hits in 73 2/3 innings of work for the Cavaliers. Goberdahn played high school ball at Cook HS under head coach Cleve Edwards.

"Sam is coming out of one of the best Junior College programs in our state over the last couple years," Culberson said. "Coach Hemmings's players are well prepared for the next level, and we believe Sam will be as well. We watched Sam get stronger as the season went on for the Cavs while they were making a run to Grand Junction and really like his competitiveness on the mound with his stuff. He will be versatile in his role, but should throw a lot of innings for us in his career."

"Sam had an amazing year for us," Darton State HC Scott Hemmings said. "He was the most consistent pitcher we had and was a huge impact on our World Series run."

Warren enjoyed a stellar season at Andrew College in 2016, hitting .418 with 14 doubles and a team-high 30 stolen bases, earning first-team All-GJCAA outfield honors. He led the league in stolen bases while also handling 121 errorless chances in the outfield. His .484 on-base percentage was fourth-best in the league. Warren played high school ball at Dutchtown HS under head coach Kelcey White.

"Mike is a pure leadoff hitter," Culberson said. "He understands how to hit at the top of the order. He is a high-ball-in-play hitter and knows how to run the bases. Each game we saw him play, he really impacted it with his ability to get on base and use his legs. Mike has good instincts in the outfield and can really cover ground. His game should transition quickly to a new level of play."

"Mike was a two year leader for our team and really played well for us both years," Andrew College HC Blake Williams said. "He is great in the classroom and off the field. I have no doubt he continue his success on the field and in the classroom at Armstrong."

Young hit .276 with nine RBI in 44 games at East Georgia College in 2016, but hit .333 in conference play in the GJCAA with a .412 on-base percentage. East Georgia made the semifinals of the GCJAA conference championships this season and Young hit .275 in 30 games for the Bobcats as a freshman. He played high school ball at Bleckley County HS under head coach Brad Davis.

"Cal is a high skilled player that understands how to play," Culberson said. "Cal has versatility defensively to play any of the infield positions."

"Cal was an asset to our program on and off the field over the past two years," East Georgia HC Matt Passauer said. "He has been around good baseball his entire life, so he brought a level of maturity to the park and in the dugout. He is a high baseball IQ player, a grinder, and a blue collar player. Armstrong is getting a special player in Cal."

Felton was named the Region 1-A-A-A-A-A-A Offensive Player of the Year in 2016 at Lowndes High School, hitting .449 with two home runs, 13 doubles and 19 RBIs. He also slugged .692 and posted a .533 on-base percentage.

"Mark is a Pirate Camper, and really performed well when he was here," Culberson said. "He does a nice job behind the plate with a good throwing arm and projects to hit for power. Mark is also from one of the most respected programs in our state as the Lowndes HS program is filled with star players every year."

"Mark was an extremely hard working and dedicated student-athlete for us," Lowndes HC Rusty Beale said. "He will be a great asset to the University and Baseball program at Armstrong State."

Finally, Gray was the Region 3-A-A-A Player of the Year for Westside HS in Augusta in 2016, hitting .464 with 11 doubles, three triples, six home runs, 33 RBI and 45 runs scored, playing for coach Gerald Barnes. He comes from an outstanding baseball family as two of his cousins were MLB draft picks - Josh Whittaker (25th round, Oakland) and Zach Hayden (23rd round, Minnesota).

"Tim is another Pirate Camper and was one of the best performers in the CSRA this season," Culberson said. "He comes

from a tradition-rich high school program and has professional genetics. Tim has pure ability to hit and could project out to play multiple defensive positions."



## ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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